MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) The major portion, *i. e.*, about 2,000 acres, is jungle land.

(ii) No permanent buildings have been put up, but in a portion of the area falling in the Kottayam Division, a few temporary huts are reported to be put up during the cultivation time, which are neglected after the season is over.

(iii) Only a very small portion of the block, falling in the Kottayam Division, has been unauthorisedly encroached upon and cleared for shifting cultivation and even here only small areas have been planted with rubber, cocoanut and other crops.

(iv) The proposed block is bounded on three sides by reserved forests and on one side by registered and unregistered lands.

(v) The Nurvakad temple is outside the proposed area.

(vi) The occupants are said to be the hirelings of rich men who have encroached on the land.

(vii) The Forest Settlement Officer, who will be appointed, will go into such matters and decide each case on its merits.

(*b*) Some land is available outside the proposed area for cultivation and for homesteads in the three *pakuthies*.

(*c*) Government are not aware.

(*d*) Government have no information.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): With regard to answer to part (*a*) (i) of the question, will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any trees upon those 2,000 acres?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In jungle lands, ordinarily there will be trees. I cannot say whether there are any trees there now or not.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): What does he say with respect to the area encroached upon?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not forest land. It has been cleared.

Appointments made by Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai, Conservator of Forests.

126. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing, caste by caste, the appointments made by the present Conservator of Forests since his assumption of charge of the Department?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No new appointments have been made since the present Conservator of Forests assumed charge of the Department. The subordinates who were already in service and who were thrown out during the re-organisation of the department in 1098 are re-entertained in temporary vacancies in the order of seniority in service.

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Appointments in the Agricultural Department.

127. **MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement of officers drawing a salary of Rs. 25 and above in the Department of Agriculture, showing the number belonging to each caste?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The statement* required by the member is placed on the table.

Collection of Green Leaf Manure from Reserved Forests.

128. **MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that, as reserved forests extend close to cultivated wet lands, the ryots of many *pakuthies* in Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha and other taluks suffer great inconvenience in procuring green leaf manure?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to allow the collection of green leaf manure from reserved forests close to cultivated wet lands?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): (*a*) No complaints in the matter of procuring green leaf manure have been received from any of the ryots of the taluks referred to by the member.

(*b*) All reserves cannot be thrown open for the purpose, as the indiscriminate collection of green manure from reserves is against forest conservancy. The available scrub jungle reserves in all the Forest Divisions have already been thrown open for the collection of green manure leaves.

Pepper Farm at Koni.

129. **MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the year in which cultivation was started in the Pepper Farm at Koni, the acreage brought under cultivation in each of the subsequent years, the expenditure incurred for this purpose and the total expenditure, including the price of land, on this farm up to the 1st Mithunam 1100?

(*b*) What is the quantity of pepper in *tulams* and the price thereof obtained from this farm in 1099?

(*c*) Is it possible for visitors now to reach the farm in carriages?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): (*a*) Cultivation on the farm was started towards the end of 1095. Sixty acres were cleared and planted with four varieties of vines in 1095, at a total cost of Rs. 1,920 at Rs. 32 per acre. In 1096, eighty acres were cleared and planted with eleven varieties, at a total cost of Rs. 2,560. Twenty acres were cleared, levelled, terraced and then planted with different species of standards in 1096 and 1097. No expenditure was incurred on account of the value of lands as the lands are Government lands. The total expenditure on the farm up to the beginning of Mithunam 1100 amounts to Rs. 47,354.

Vide Appendix II—page 779.

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